United Nations

Daily Highlights

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ IAEA Board of Governors finds Democratic People's Republic of Korea has widened its non-compliance with safeguards agreement; says Agency prevented from verifying whether nuclear material diverted in past.

+ One month cease-fire agreement between Bosnian Government and Bosnian Serbs takes effect in the former Yugoslavia at noon today; UNPROFOR makes arrangements for prisoner exchange.

+ Secretary-General arrives in Tunis for OAU Summit; says continued cooperation between the United Nations and OAU needed to settle crisis in Rwanda and other disputes in Africa.

+ Special Envoy Brahimi leaves for Saudi Arabia to continue fact-finding mission on conflict in Yemen; reiterates need for humanitarian aid.

+ Secretary-General condemns hijacking of an Operation Lifeline Sudan barge and seizure of United Nations personnel in Jonglei, Sudan.

+ Experts at World Hearings on Development call for streamlining of the Economic and Social Council, reinvention of United Nations Development Programme and establishment of development council.

+ UNHCR steps up preparations to cope with increasing number of Rwandan refugees pouring into Tanzania, Uganda, Zaire and Burundi; Agency caring for over one million people in region.

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The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has found that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) was continuing to widen its non-compliance with safeguards in connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. In a resolution adopted today, the IAEA's Board of Governors said the DPRK's actions had prevented the Agency from verifying the history of the core at its five megawatt reactor, and from ascertaining whether nuclear material there had been diverted in recent years.

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The Board deplored the DPRK's failure to implement essential elements of the IAEA's previous resolutions regarding non-compliance. It called on that country to provide full access to all safeguards-relevant information and locations, under the terms of the Treaty. The Board decided to suspend non-medical Agency assistance to the DPRK and asked the Agency's Director-General to notify the Security Council and the General Assembly of its decision.

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The one month cease-fire agreement signed in Geneva on Wednesday by the Bosnian Government and the Bosnian Serbs took effect in the former Yugoslavia at noon local time today (1100 GMT). The two sides agreed not to initiate any new hostilities, to expediate efforts to achieve a lasting peace, and to release all detained persons. A spokesman for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) described the agreement as an important opportunity to stabilize the military situation and a first step towards a comprehensive cessation of hostilities.

Special Representative, Yasushi Akashi, called on the parties to honour and implement the agreement at this critical time. Yesterday, he met with with officials from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees (UNHCR) and UNPROFOR staff in preparation for the release and mutual exchange of prisoners.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali arrived in Tunis today, where he will attend the Summit of the Heads of State of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on 13 June. He was welcomed by Sadek Fayala, Secretary-of State for Foreign Affairs of Tunisa, and Ibrahima Fall, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General. Speaking to correspondents on Rwanda, the Secretary-General said the Arusha agreement was based on close cooperation between the United Nations and the OAU. He said continued cooperation between the two organizations was needed in order to find a settlement to the grave crisis in that country.

The Secretary-General said he hoped the OAU summit would be a prelude to settling the dispute in Rwanda and in other areas such as Angola and Liberia. He said he was in continuous contact with Lakhdar Brahimi, his Special Envoy and Head of the fact-finding mission to Yemen. He was hopeful, despite the difficulties, that a cease-fire would be reached and a dialogue started between the parties to end the "dangerous crisis." there.

Later today, the Secretary-General met with the Foreign Ministers of Tunisia and Egypt, and the Secretary-General of the OAU. Tomorrow, he will be received by the President of Tunisia, Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali.

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Special Envoy Lakhdar Brahimi left Sana'a, Yemen today for Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, where he will continue his fact-finding mission on the conflict in Yemen. Before leaving Sana'a, Mr. Brahimi had discussions with the speaker of the Parliament Sheikh Abdalla Al-Ahmar and the Chairman of political groups. He reiterated the need for urgent humanitarian assistance especially to Aden, where there have been reports of a serious water shortage and intermittant electricity outages. Following his meeting with Mr. Brahimi yesterday, President Ali Abdalla Saheh ordered the the distribution of food and free medicine in the city.

Earlier today, Mr. Brahimi met with the Ambassadors of the Arab Maghreb Union, including Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco and Libya as well as the charge D'Affairs of the Russian Federation. Yesterday, he met with the Ambassadors of the Unied States and France.

Representatives of United Nations agencies in Sana'a and government ministeries submitted a first assessment of the country's needs to donor governments yesterday. A team will be sent to Southern Yemen, to determine the number of displaced persons and damage to the infrastructure there.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has condemned the hijacking of an Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS) barge and the seizure of United Nations personnel in Jonglei, Sudan. Three international and eight or nine local staff from the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) were on board the barge, a spokesman for the Organization said today. It was delivering relief supplies to both Government and Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) controlled areas between Kosti and Juba.

Radio contact with the barge was lost four days ago, but OLS flights have confirmed the location of the barge and that the United Nations staff are being held prisoners, the spokesman said.

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Experts addressing the World Hearings on Development, today made proposals to streamline the Economic and Social Council, reinvent the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and establish a development council. Jan Pronk, Minister for the Development Cooperation of the Netherlands, said the Security Council should have a window to deal with economic matters at the highest political level. At present, countries with economic clout took no notice of the current economic negotiations at the United Nations. The Secretary-General's report, An Agenda for Development, should have addressed the need to reform the United Nations in order to adapt policies to different international settings. He stressed that such reform would make it impossible for Governments to ignore the Organization.

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